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Chicagoan Gets Two Years; Gave Passports To Soviets

Paul Carl Meyer, 25, who pleaded guilty to turning over 15 American passports to Russian agents in East Berlin, Friday was sentenced to two years in prison.

U.S. District Court Judge Julius J. Hoffman, in passing sentence, said he could not dismiss Meyer's conduct as a "prank," and asked whether a more serious charge could not have been lodged against him.

Pleaded Guilty

Meyer, of 4031 N. Pulaski, pleaded guilty Feb. 3 to fraudulently obtaining the 15 passports and later turning them

over to Russian agents, and to using the passports in Spain and West Berlin to cash checks and register in hotels.

Meyer's attorney, Raymond S. Suckoff, in asking for probation, said it was all a "youthful prank" by a misguided youth who just wanted to make some money to marry a girl he had met while working in Ecuador.

D. Arthur Connelly, in charge of the criminal division of the U.S. attorney's office, said Meyer obtained the passports by promising men in the Chicago area he would obtain

employment for them in South America.

He went to Europe in February, 1963, to sell the passports, Connelly said, and contacted two Soviet agents in East Berlin.

The Soviets said the passports were worthless, but gave Meyer \$500 and trained him to operate a camera disguised as a radio and to use secret methods of correspondence. Then he was directed by the agents to contact several persons in the American and British missions in West Berlin, and to try to blackmail them into providing information.

Tells CIA, FBI

Upon his return to this country in June, Meyer notified the Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation about obtaining and disposing of the passports.

He then joined the Army, and served for a year before being discharged as a hardship case. At the time of his indictment and arrest, Meyer was working for a Northwest Side newspaper-distribution agency.

Judge Hoffman also sentenced Meyer to one year on each of three remaining counts, with all terms to be served concurrently.